AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus for making a setting ~~such that signals of one or more input channels selected from among a plurality of input channels are mixed into at least one of a plurality of output channels~~ of a signal path in an audio mixing system, said audio mixing system comprising a plurality of input channels and a plurality of output channels, said audio mixing system performing signal mixing by connecting each of plural input channels, selected from the plurality of input channels, to at least one output channel selected for the input channel from among the plurality of output channels, said mixing signal-path setting apparatus comprising:

a first signal path setting section that selects ~~one or more~~ plural input channels from among the plurality of input channels and makes a setting such that signals of the selected ~~one or more~~ plural input channels are mixed into a first output channel ~~of a~~ selected from among said plurality of output channels, so that signals, obtained by mixing the signals of all of the selected plural input channels, are outputted via said first output channel;

an exclusion setting section that ~~sets~~ selects a particular input channel, ~~to be excluded~~ from among the plurality of input channels, to be excluded; and

a second signal ~~processing~~ path setting section that makes a setting such that the signals of ~~the one or more~~ said plural input channels selected via said first signal ~~processing~~ path setting section, ~~and~~ having the signal of the particular ~~input channel, set~~ input channel selected by said exclusion setting section ~~section,~~ excluded therefrom, are mixed into a second output channel of the plurality of output channels, so that signals, obtained by mixing the signals of the selected plural input channels with the particular input channel excluded therefrom, are outputted via said second output channel.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises an output channel setting section that sets, as said second output channel, a ~~given~~ desired one of the plurality of output channels other than said first output channel.

Claim 3 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said exclusion setting section selects the particular input channel to be excluded from the plurality of input channels and cuts the signal of the selected particular input channel so as to prevent the signal of the selected particular input channel from being led to said second output channel.

Claim 4 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said exclusion setting section selects the particular input channel to be excluded from among the plurality of input channels and lowers the signal of the selected particular input channel to a small level so as to allow the signal of the selected particular input channel to be mixed into said second output channel at a small level.

Claim 5 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises a mixing processing device that performs mixing processing on audio signals inputted via the input channels and outputs the audio signals, having been subjected to the mixing processing, to the output channels.

Claim 6 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first signal path setting section includes a plurality of switches, provided in corresponding relation to the plurality of input channels, for making settings such that the signals of the input channels are mixedly outputted to a predetermined first output channel, and, in accordance with the settings made by said switches, the signals of the input channels corresponding to said switches are set to be mixed into said predetermined first output channel, and

where said second signal path setting section includes a branch for branching the signals of the input channels, having been set via said switches to be mixed into said predetermined first output channel, and the signals of the input channels, having the signal of the particular input channel excluded therefrom by means of said branch, are mixed into a predetermined second output channel of the plurality of output channels.

Claim 7 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first output channel comprises a predetermined pair of mixing buses,

wherein said first signal path setting section includes a plurality of switches, provided in corresponding relation to the plurality of input channels, for making settings such that the signals of the input channels are outputted to said predetermined pair of mixing buses, and, in accordance with the settings made by said switches, the signals of the input channels corresponding to said switches are set to be mixed into said predetermined pair of mixing buses, and

where said second signal path setting section includes a branch for branching the signals of the input channels, having been set via said switches to be mixed into said predetermined pair of mixing buses, to one of the mixing buses, and the signals of the input channels, having the signal of the particular input channel excluded therefrom by means of said branch, are mixed into the one mixing bus.

Claim 8 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said exclusion setting section mixes respective signals of the plurality of input channels into said second output channel via level adjusting devices, and a signal level of a desired one of the input channels is suppressed via the level adjusting device of the desired input channel so that the desired input channel is set as the particular input channel to be excluded.

Claim 9 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said second signal path setting section adjusts the signals of the input channels, other than the particular input channel to be excluded, to predetermined levels and then mixes the adjusted signals into said second output channel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 1 which includes~~ for making a setting such that signals of one or more input channels selected from among a plurality of input channels are mixed into at least one of a plurality of output channels, said mixing signal path setting apparatus comprising:

a first signal path setting section that selects one or more input channels from among the plurality of input channels and makes a setting such that signals of the selected one or more input channels are mixed into a first output channel of a plurality of output channels;

an exclusion setting section that set s a particular input channel, from the plurality of input channels, to be excluded;

a second signal path setting section that makes a setting such that the signals of the one or more input channels selected via said first signal path setting section, having the signal of the particular input channel set by said exclusion setting section excluded therefrom, are mixed into a second output channel of the plurality of output channels; and

a section that provides a visual display to be used for setting various parameters for mixing signal paths.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 10 ~~claim 9~~ where, when the various parameters are to be set via the display, said second signal path setting section automatically performs a switching operation necessary for mixing the signals of the input channels, having the signal of the particular input channel excluded therefrom, into said second output channel, and said second signal path setting section also automatically performs necessary signal level adjustment in connection with the switching operation.

Claim 12 (original): A mixing signal-path setting apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises a storage section that stores information indicative of at least a portion of the settings made by said first signal path setting section, said exclusion setting section and said second signal path setting section, and wherein the information stored in said storage section is read out to reproduce at least a portion of the settings made by said first signal path setting section, said exclusion setting section and said second signal path setting section.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer readable medium storing a program for causing a computer to set ~~signal paths leading from a plurality of input channels to a plurality of output channels in a mixing apparatus,~~ a signal path in an audio mixing system, said audio mixing system comprising a plurality of input channels and a plurality of output channels, said audio mixing system performing signal mixing by connecting each of plural input channels, selected from the plurality of input channels, to at least one output channel selected for the input channel from among the plurality of output channels, said program comprising:

a first signal path setting step of selecting ~~one or more~~ plural input channels from among a plurality of input channels and making a setting such that signals of the selected ~~one or more~~ plural input channels are mixed into a first output channel ~~of a plurality~~ selected from among said of output channels, so that signals, obtained by mixing the signals of all of the selected plural input channels, are outputted via said first output channel;

an exclusion setting step of ~~setting~~ selecting a particular input channel, ~~to be excluded~~ from among the plurality of input channels, to be excluded; and

a second signal path setting step of making a setting such that the signals of ~~the one or more~~ said plural input channels selected via said first signal path setting step, ~~and~~ having the signal of the particular ~~input channel, set~~ input channel selected by said exclusion setting step, excluded therefrom are mixed into a second output channel of the plurality of output channels, so that signals, obtained by mixing the signals of the selected plural input channels with the particular input channel excluded therefrom, are outputted via said second output channel.